

REMARKS

Claims 15 and 28 have been amended. Claims 25 and 26 have been canceled. A new claim 35 depending from claim 20 has been added. A new independent claim 36 has been added. Claims 15 – 24 and 27 - 36 are pending in the current application.

In the Office Action, the drawings are objected to. Moreover, in the Office Action, claims 15-27 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. In the Office Action, claims 15-20, 22-25, 28-31, and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by Bukulmez et al WO 02/065036. Also, in the Office Action, claims 21, 26, and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bukulmez et al WO 02/065036. Furthermore, in the Office Action, claims 27 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bukulmez et al WO 02/065036 in view of Licentia DE 92 18 613U.

With respect to the objection to the drawings, it is submitted that this objection is now overcome in view of the amendment of claim 28.

With respect to the rejection of claims 15-27 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, it is submitted that this rejection is now overcome in view of the amendments of claims 15 and 28.

With respect to the prior art rejection of claims 15 – 34, favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the amendment of claims 15 and 28 and the following comments.

An exemplary embodiment of the claimed invention as recited by, for example, independent claim 15, is directed to a door for a refrigerating appliance including an outer wall, an inner wall, and a transverse edge formed with a viewing window. The outer wall and the inner wall interconnected along their longitudinal and transverse edges forming a space therebetween to form a depth for the door. The viewing window extends over the depth of the door. The door

covers the body of the refrigerating appliance to its upper edge and a control panel that is mounted on an upper front edge of a body of the refrigerating appliance is visible through the viewing window.

Conventional refrigerators that have a control panel mounted on an upper front edge have a door which ends a few centimetres below the upper edge so that the control panel is visible. However, the appearances of these refrigerators suffer as the door, which presents the most striking appearance, is shorter than the body of the refrigerator.

Other conventional refrigerators that have a control panel mounted on an upper front edge have a door which extends as far as the upper edge of the body of the refrigerator. However, as a result, these doors cover the control panels and the visibility and convenient operation of the control panels are lost.

In contrast, the present invention provides a door that covers the body of the refrigerating appliance to its upper edge and which includes a viewing window through which the upper front edge mounted control panel is viewable. In this manner, a door is provided which extends up to the upper edge and, therefore, provides a desirable appearance while simultaneously enabling viewability of the control panel.

The Office Action rejects claims 15-20, 22-25, 28-31, and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by the Bukulmez et al. reference and rejects claims 21-26, and 32 as allegedly being obvious in view of the Bukulmez et al. reference. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

None of the applied references teaches or suggests the features of the claimed invention including: 1) a control panel mounted on an upper front edge of a body of the refrigerating appliance that is visible through a viewing window of a door; (claim 15) and 2) a display element mounted at an upper front edge of the body and a viewing window oriented such that said display element is visible when said door is closed (claim 28). As explained above, these features are

important for providing a refrigerator with a front edge mounted control panel which is visible through a door that provides a complete aesthetic appearance.

In contrast to the claimed invention, the Bukulmez et al. reference discloses a refrigerator with a control panel 3 that is mounted to the top of the body of the refrigerator. In particular, the control panel 3 is mounted on top of the upper panel 10 of the refrigerator. The Bukulmez et al. reference very clearly does not teach or suggest any control panel that is mounted on an upper front edge of the body of a refrigerator.

Indeed, since the control panel of the Bukulmez et al. reference is not mounted on an upper front edge, the Bukulmez et al. reference does not even suffer from the problem that is solved by the present invention. As explained above, the present invention is directed to solving the problems that an upper front edge mounted control panel presents. Since the Bukulmez et al. reference does not teach or suggest an upper front edge mounted control panel, the Bukulmez et al. reference does not teach or suggest the problems, let alone any solution that is provided by the claimed invention.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of these rejections.

The Office Action rejects claims 27 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over the Bukulmez et al. reference in view of the Licentia reference. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

None of the applied references teaches or suggests the features of the claimed invention including: 1) a control panel mounted on an upper front edge of a body of the refrigerating appliance that is visible through a viewing window of a door; (claim 15) and 2) a display element mounted at an upper front edge of the body and a viewing window oriented such that said display element is visible when said door is closed (claim 28). These features are important for providing a refrigerator with a front edge mounted control panel which is visible through a door that provides a complete aesthetic appearance.

As explained above, the Bukulmez et al. reference does not teach or suggest these features.

The Licentia reference does not remedy the deficiencies of the Bukulmez et al. reference.

Indeed, the Office Action does not allege that the Licentia reference remedies these deficiencies.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, entry of the present Amendment and allowance of claims 15 – 24 and 27 - 36 are respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned. If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Respectfully submitted



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